

**MINNESOTA ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO
THE U.S. COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS
MEETING MINUTES**

October 31, 2016

The Minnesota Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (Committee) convened via conference call to discuss civil rights concerns in the State. Velma Korbelt chaired the meeting and performed the initial roll call of committee members present. The meeting was open to the public and took place from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM CDT.

State Advisory Committee Members:

Present:

1. Korbelt, Velma (Chair)
2. Beaulieu, Jacqueline
3. Guadarrama, Leticia
4. Huynh, Denise
5. Kolbo, Kirk
6. Nelson, Teresa
7. Vischer, Robert
8. Battle, Robert
9. Check, Ryan
10. Valens, Nyagatare

Absent:

1. Doyle, Kenneth (Vice Chair)
2. Dobratz, Matthew
3. Levy-Pounds, Nekima
4. Taylor, Craig

Commission Staff present:

- Wojnarowski, Melissa (DFO)
- Wilks, Olivia (USCCR intern)
- Moreno, Victoria (USCCR intern)

Members of the Public present:

- None identified

Meeting Notes/Decisions Made:

Welcome and Roll Call

The Chair welcomed all members and took a roll call of members present.

Approval of Minutes

Committee member Bob Battle moved to approve the minutes from the Committee's meeting, September 26, 2016 as drafted.

Teresa Nelson seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

Police Practices Proposal Review

- 1) The Committee reviewed a draft project proposal to study police practices in the state (attached)
- 2) Discussion and Proposal Amendments
 - a. The Committee passed the following motions:
 - i. Teresa Nelson moved to correct p. 5 paragraph 1 indicating that Philando Castile was killed in Hennepin County. He was killed in Ramsey County. Accordingly, the updated report shall change the text “Hennepin county” to “Minneapolis and St. Paul metropolitan area.” Nyagatare Valens seconded and the motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.
 - ii. Velma Korbelt moved to amend p. 6, paragraph 1 by adding “On October 21, 2016, Minneapolis Police Chief Janee Harteau announced that the Minneapolis Police Department had conducted an internal investigation into the use of force in this incident where it was determined the two officers would not be criminally charged and concluded there were no violations of MPD policy.” Robert Vischer seconded motion and the motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.
 - iii. Velma Korbelt moved to amend p. 7, paragraph 2 to read, “The OPCR now sends complaints to be evaluated by a joint supervisor team – the Director of the Office of Police Conduct Review and the Commander of Internal Affairs – who determine how a complaint will be handled.” Bob Battle seconded and the motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.
 - b. The Committee noted the following amendments:
 - i. The proposal should be corrected to indicate that Hennepin County Prosecutors declined to press charges against officers in the Jamar Clark case on March 30, 2016.
 1. This change is on p. 5 paragraph 2- p.6, paragraph 1.
 - ii. Background discussion should include mention of changing roles of police and the myriad of demands put on police, specifically referencing language from the 21st century report.
 1. Updated quote on p.4, paragraph 1 includes, “As our nation becomes more pluralistic and the scope of law enforcement’s responsibilities expands, the need for expanded and more effective training has become critical. Today’s line officers and leaders must be trained and capable to address a wide variety of challenges including international terrorism, evolving technologies, rising immigration, changing laws, new cultural mores, and a growing mental health crisis.”

- iii. The background should include Minneapolis' involvement in the National Initiative for Building Community Trust and Justice.
 1. Updated paragraph on p. 8, paragraph 2 reads, "Some communities are starting to take action in response to these concerns. Minneapolis is one of six pilot locations working with the National Initiative for Building Community Trust & Justice. The National Initiative is working in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Justice, the National Network for Safe Communities at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Justice Collaboratory at Yale Law School, the Center for Policing Equity at John Jay College and UCLA, and the Urban Institute to explore issues of trust between the criminal justice system and communities of color. This initiative attempts to improve trust by enhancing procedural justice, reducing implicit bias, and fostering reconciliation."
- iv. The final paragraph of the background section should include specific new immigrant and refugee communities impacted by disparate police practices including Hmong, Cambodian, and Tibetan Communities, among others.
 1. Updated p. 7 paragraph, 2 now reads "Therefore, the Committee's study may include a review of policing practices in metropolitan, suburban, and rural communities; particularly where significant Black, Latino, Native American, Muslim, and new immigrant and refugee populations including Hmong, Cambodian, and Tibetan communities, among others."

3) Approval of Project Proposal

- a. Ryan Check moved to approve the project proposal as amended above
- b. Bob Battle seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

Open Comment

Members of the public were invited to comment on the Committee's discussion and identification of priority civil rights concerns for study. No public comments were received.

Future Plans and Actions

- The Committee will meet next in December 2016. Committee members should be prepared to discuss potential panelists and their relevance to police practices in Minnesota
 - Include panelists and communities outside of the metropolitan area
 - Include clergy and religious leaders on panel

- Focus on community leaders and law enforcement on panels
- Please send nominations by December 1, 2016.

Next Meeting

December 8 2016 at 1:00 PM CDT via conference call

Meeting Adjourned

2:00 PM CDT